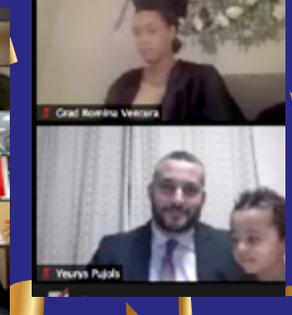
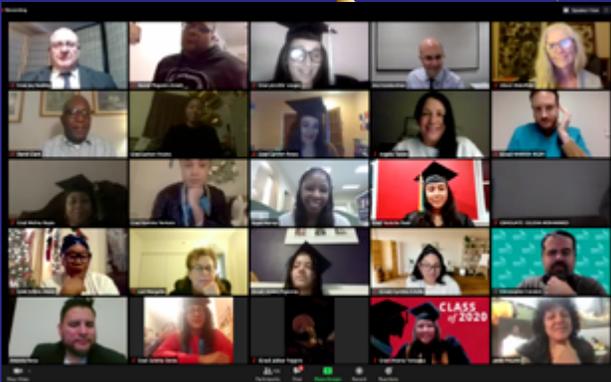


HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE CELEBRATES THE CLASS OF 2020 WITH VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES





INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

HR News	4
PTK News.....	9
Continuing Education Programs	11
Alumni Profile	13

From the Editor's Desk

HCCC Happenings is on the College's website at <http://www.hccc.edu>

Items for the February newsletter are due by Friday, January 8, 2020.

Please send your news items, comments and suggestions to:

Jennifer Christopher, Director Communications Department
162-168 Sip Avenue, 2nd Floor
Jersey City, NJ 07306
Phone: 201.360.4061
Fax: 201.653.0607
jchristopher@hccc.edu

PLEASE NOTE:

Digital photos must be high resolution JPG. This means 300 dpi at actual print size.

Images in this issue used for other purposes is strictly prohibited without the express advance consent of the Communications Department. Permission to use these photos may be requested by submitting a detailed summary to communications@hccc.edu.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE CELEBRATES THE CLASS OF 2020 WITH VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES ON DECEMBER 10

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) invited family and friends to honor the HCCC Class of 2020 by viewing live-stream Commencement ceremonies on Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020 at 12 noon on the HCCC YouTube Channel – www.youtube.com/user/HudsonCountyCollege. At the virtual event, associate degrees and certificates were awarded to 1,680 May and December 2020 HCCC graduates.

The keynote speaker was James Elliott, the 2019-2020 International President of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society, and recipient of the first-ever PTK Presidential Scholarship. The 2020 Delaware Technical Community College graduate shared his inspirational life story. At age 19, Mr. Elliott was convicted of a felony, and spent nearly six years in prison. After his release, he returned to Delaware to complete a dual degree program in human services and drug and alcohol counseling. He has been named to the All-USA Academic Team, and is a New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar. Mr. Elliott is also a prison reform advocate who promotes education for recidivism reduction.

The Valedictorians were Gabriela Melendez (May 2020), and Vanisha Patel (December 2020), both Jersey City residents. Ms. Melendez graduated with an Associate in Science degree in Computer Science-Cybersecurity option, and Ms. Patel with

an Associate in Science degree in Biology.

Gabriela Melendez enrolled at Hudson County Community College in Fall 2017, and completed requirements for her Associate in Science (A.S.) degree in Computer Science-Cybersecurity in Fall 2019. Ms. Melendez plans to work as a cybersecurity analyst and start a family. She credits the College's collaborative environment and its focus on student success as helping her through rigorous academic challenges and personal growth. Ms. Melendez was a Peer Leader who assisted with campus events, including Pizza with the President, One-Stop Registration, transfer events, #TruckinThursdays, and more. She was a member of the Gaming Club and National Society of Leadership and Success.

Vanisha Patel began her studies at HCCC in Fall 2019, and just completed requirements for her Associate in Science (A.S.) degree in Biology (Science and Mathematics). Ms. Patel plans to transfer to Rutgers University, study Pre-Veterinary Medicine, and pursue a career as a veterinarian. At HCCC, she was the Student Government Association's Director of Record-Keeping, a member of the Academic Affairs Committee, Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, STEM Club, Model United Nations, Photography Club, and more.

ON THE COVER: Scenes from Hudson County Community College's Virtual Commencement ceremony on Dec. 10 and pre-ceremony virtual events: Lavender Graduation, Kente Graduation, and Toast to the Graduates.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION'S VIRTUAL HOLIDAY GALA A SUCCESS



Pictured from left: Dr. Ara Karakashian, Acting Associate Dean, Business, Culinary Arts, Hospitality Management Division; HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber; College Lecturer Marissa Lontoc; Dr. Nicholas Chiaravallotti, Vice President of External Affairs & Senior Counsel to the President; and Mirta Sanchez, Assistant to the Vice President for Planning and Development at the dinner basket pickup station at the College prior to the HCCC Foundation Annual Holiday Gala.

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Foundation Chairman Joseph Napolitano, Sr. reports that donors, the HCCC Culinary Arts chef professors and students, and HCCC staff made the 23rd Annual Holiday Gala a great success.

The virtual fundraising event, "Gala @ Home," was held on Thursday evening, December 3rd. To date, \$154,950 has been raised to provide scholarships for deserving students. Donors received a basket filled with a gourmet dinner prepared by chefs of the award-winning HCCC Culinary Arts Institute. The baskets contained cold seafood, antipasto, assorted cheeses, breads and crackers, a two-entrée dinner, desserts and beverages.

HCCC President, Dr. Chris Reber, and Dr. Nicholas Chiaravallotti, Vice President of External Affairs & Senior Counsel to the President, opened the online event with a welcoming toast.

"Many donors have reported that although they missed meeting in person, they thoroughly enjoyed this year's 'Gala @ Home,'" Dr. Chiaravallotti stated.

"We are grateful to everyone who participated in the Gala, and to all who worked to make it a success," Dr. Reber said. "The strong support for our students is especially appreciated at this time."

Continued on page 3

HCCC FOUNDATION'S VIRTUAL HOLIDAY GALA A SUCCESS

Continued from page 2



Distinguished Service Award recipient Paul Dillon, HCCC Associate Dean of Business, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality Management (right), with his daughter.



Members of the College faculty in a viewing party of the Gala@Home outside Dean Dillon's home.

Mr. Napolitano introduced the HCCC Foundation 2020 honoree, Paul Dillon, HCCC Associate Dean of Business, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality Management. It was noted that Dean Dillon's leadership has propelled the HCCC Foundation Gala to be recognized as one of the most spectacular and enjoyable events in Hudson County.

Tickets for the Lucky Odds Raffle are available for \$50 each and may be obtained by contacting Mirta Sanchez at msancez@hccc.edu no later than Monday, Feb. 15, 2021. The grand prize is 40 percent of ticket sales; second prize is 6 percent; and third prize is 4 percent.

The Hudson County Community College Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation providing tax-exempt status to contributors. Established in 1997, the Foundation generates financial support for the College and its students, develops and awards needs-based and merit scholarships, provides seed money for faculty programs, assists incoming students in achieving academic success, and provides for the College's physical growth as well as the cultural enrichment of Hudson County residents. Since its founding, the Foundation has raised more than \$3.5 million in scholarships. The Foundation Art Collection, which was established in 2006, now includes over 1,250 works – most by nationally and internationally renowned artists.

View Gala@Home @HudsonCountyCollege

Gala@Home

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_4S3KmdNSo

Tribute to Paul Dillon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUqoiG1s-cA>

ACHIEVING THE DREAM UPDATE

On November 3, 2020, President Reber received a letter from Dr. Mary Fifield and Dr. Rene Garcia, HCCC's Achieving the Dream Leadership and Data Coaches, respectively, that detailed key findings from their October 13-16, 2020 virtual visit to HCCC. In addition, Dr. Fifield and Dr. Garcia provided actionable recommendations to further our student success work. In the letter, they praised the College community for its commitment to keeping equity and student success at the center of our work, especially as we continue to navigate this "new normal." Dr. Fifield and Dr. Garcia also commended the College for the expansive and inclusive nature of our student success work as more members of the HCCC com-

munity have become involved through the How Teams and other complementary initiatives such as the President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (PACDEI). Among their recommendations, Dr. Fifield and Dr. Garcia encouraged HCCC's Dream Team, the How Team working groups, and the broader HCCC community to examine existing practices and policies through the eyes of students (i.e., identifying points at which students may encounter barriers or have questions). The Dream Team will be reporting out on its progress in executing Dr. Fifield and Dr. Garcia's recommendations throughout the coming months. Dr. Fifield and Dr. Garcia's next virtual visit is scheduled for March 2021.

How Team (n.)

A working group led by two members of HCCC's Dream Team and comprised of members from different functional areas of the college. Each How Team is tasked with reviewing research related to, collecting quantitative and qualitative data about, and making recommendations for the implementation of one strategy in HCCC's Student Success Action Plan. HCCC's Student Success Action Plan is available for viewing at https://www.hccc.edu/achieving_the_dream/

HCCC ALUMNA RECEIVES FIRST COVID-19 VACCINE IN NEW JERSEY



Maritza Beniquez, a nurse in the Emergency Department at @UnivHospNewark, prepares to be the first New Jerseyan to receive the @pfizer-@BioNTech_Group #COVID19 vaccine. Maritza is a mother of 3, grandmother of 2, and a proud member of HPAE Local 5089. And it's her bday today!

On Tuesday, Dec. 15, Maritza Beniquez, an emergency room nurse at University Hospital in Newark, became the first person in New Jersey to receive a vaccine for the coronavirus, other than clinical trials.

Beniquez received the injection during a ceremony at the hospital – coincidentally on her birthday – surrounded by colleagues, news cameras, and New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy.

Beniquez, an ER nurse for five years at University Hospital, is a 2013 Hudson County Community College graduate and Phi Theta Kappa alumna, earning an associate degree in nursing.

Workers at five other New Jersey hospitals – Hackensack Meridian Health in Hackensack, Robert Wood Johnson in New Brunswick, AtlanticCare Regional in Atlantic City, Morristown Medical Center, and Cooper in Camden – also received vaccines on Dec. 15.



Maritza Beniquez (seated), the nurse who received the first COVID-19 vaccine in NJ, is also a Phi Theta Kappa alumna. (New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy is pictured second from right.)

MILESTONES

Congratulations to the following on their anniversary with Hudson County Community College!

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

*Diana Galvez
Karen Hosick
Anshuma Jain
Callie Martin*

5 Years

*Saba Daud
Sheila Dynan
Chastity Farrell
Faiza Fayyaz
Michelle Vitale
Linda Schultz-Whitlock*

15 Years

*Michael Ferlise
Timothy Peacock
Yeury Pujols*

20 Years

Raffaella Pernice

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

*Alena De la Cruz
Tahar Dob
Deyanira Flores
Anup Ghimire
Anne Hutchinson
Akif Iftikhar
Marina Khalil
Fatima Khan
Alejandro Lopez Villanueva
David Mercado
James Morgan
Jankiben Nayee
Matthew Roperos
Reem Sharaf*

5 Years

*Camila Avalos
Nicole Behman
Doris Ervin
Dorisneida Gaviria
Lilian Martinez
Rodrigo Romea*

RETIREMENT

Timothy Peacock

For professional development workshops, opportunities, and other resources, please visit the Office of Faculty and Staff Development page at <http://my.hccc.edu>

For information about online, remote, and on-ground learning and the College's on-ground operations, students, faculty and staff are encouraged to visit the Return to Campus Task Force web page - <http://www.hccc.edu/returntocampus/>

ERIC M. FRIEDMAN, PH.D. BECOMES BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EIGHTH PRESIDENT

In December, the Bergen Community College (BCC) Board of Trustees named Hudson County Community College's Executive Vice President and Provost, Eric M. Friedman, Ph.D., the eighth president of New Jersey's largest community college. Dr. Friedman will begin his tenure on Jan. 1, 2021.

"Eric has served HCCC exceedingly well for many years, and we are very happy for him," said HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber. "He is more than ready to take this exciting next step in his career. At the same time, we will all miss him greatly."

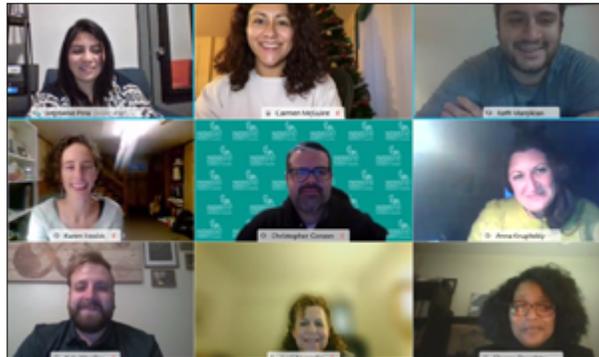
As executive vice president and provost/chief operating officer at HCCC, Friedman's expansive portfolio of responsibilities included leading the College's recent reaffirmation of its accreditation, launching an array of new programs in high-de-

mand fields, and overseeing the expansion of a center for online learning as a key area for fiscal sustainability. Friedman also created additional enrollment opportunities by leading the development of off-site locations, expanding early college dual-enrollment programs, and managing the development of Hudson's first fully-accredited school of nursing.

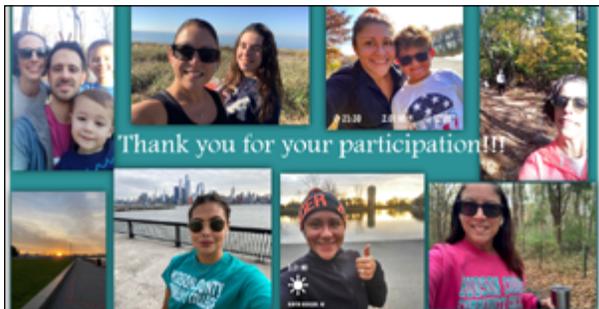


Hudson County Community College extends a hearty thank you to Dr. Friedman for his service and wishes him every success in his new role.

STEPS FOR WELLNESS



On Friday, December 4, the College Life Committee of the All College Council and the Office of Human Resources hosted a virtual celebration of the Fall 2020 Steps for Wellness, a program to promote self-care and balance. Over 12 departments participated for 9 weeks from September through November. 16 participants submitted a total of 3,393.24 miles! We are looking to organize another program for Spring 2021. Join us!



TOP 5 CHALLENGERS:

- 1st Place:
Hussein Odeh 470.5 miles
- 2nd Place:
Lori Margolin 410.36 miles
- 3rd Place:
Christopher Conzen 374.14 miles
- 4th Place:
Carmen McGuire 327.68 miles
- 5th Place:
Raffi Manjikian 316.1 miles

TOP 5 PROGRESS

- 1st Place:
Sandra Aviles 558% Increase
- 2nd Place:
Tochi Amaechina 225% Increase
- 3rd Place:
Kyle Woolley 190% Increase
- 4th Place:
Anna Krupitskiy 186% Increase
- 5th Place:
Sharon Daughtry 178% Increase

SAVE THE DATE



COLLEGE SERVICE DAY and ALL COLLEGE FACULTY ORIENTATION

Thursday, January 21, 2021

2021 HOLIDAY CALENDAR

- Monday, January 18: Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday (College Closed – No Classes)
- Friday, February 12: President's Weekend (Administrative Offices Closed, Classes in Session)
- Monday, February 15: President's Weekend (College Closed – No Classes)
- Friday, April 2: Good Friday (College Closed – No Classes)
- Monday, May 31: Memorial Day (College Closed – No Classes)
- Friday, June 18: Observance of Juneteenth – Floating Holiday
- Monday, July 5: Observance of Independence Day (College Closed – No Classes)
- Monday, September 6: Labor Day (College Closed – No Classes)
- Monday, October 11: Columbus Day – College Open/Classes in Session. Floating Holiday
- Tuesday, November 2: Election Day – College Open/Classes in Session. Floating Holiday
- Thursday, November 11: Veterans Day – College Open/Classes in Session. Floating Holiday
- Wednesday, November 24: Early closing at 3 p.m. Day classes in session. Supervisors will give essential student support personnel required to work after 3 p.m. an alternate early departure date/time.
- Thursday, November 25: Thanksgiving Day (College Closed – No Classes)
- Friday, November 26: Day After Thanksgiving (College Closed – No Classes)
- December 22 through January 2: College Closed
- Wednesday, December 22: Given for Christmas Day (Saturday)
- Thursday, December 23: Given for New Year's Day (Saturday)
- Friday, December 24: Christmas Eve
- Monday, January 3, 2022: Day After New Year's Day (Administrators and Staff – Floating Holiday; Faculty – Holiday)

DON'T MISS Hudson County Community College

OUT of the BOX



PODCAST

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC IS:

Theatre Arts Program

WITH GUESTS:

Joseph Gallo, Assistant Professor, Theater Arts
and Rossella Lopez, Theatre Arts Major



Tune in to our monthly podcast for a timely discussion about education, people, programs, events, issues, and solutions that affect those who live and work in Hudson County.

Each session is hosted by HCCC President, Dr. Chris Reber and features special guests and HCCC students.

To listen, visit

www.hccc.edu/outofthebox

Lucky You! There's Still Time to Win!

Enter the
Lucky Odds Raffle

Grand Prize
40% of ticket sales

Enter the Hudson County Community College Foundation's "Lucky Odds Raffle!"

Tickets \$50 each

Second Prize
6% of ticket sales

Winning ticket will be drawn on
Monday, February 15, 2021

Third Prize
4% of ticket sales

To purchase a raffle ticket or for more information:
Please contact Mirta Sanchez at
msanchez@hccc.edu
or (201) 360-4004.

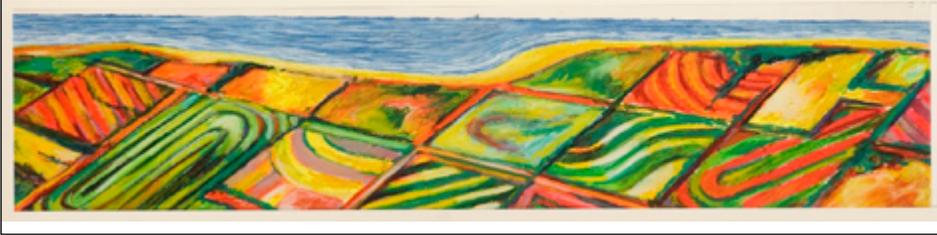
www.hccc.edu/foundation



Foundation Art Collection

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection of 1,300+ works is installed in the public areas of ten campus buildings. The entire College is an educational art museum. This Collection reveals aspects of America's and New Jersey's rich artistic and cultural history from the Hudson River School period to today. In recent years, the College's acquisition efforts have focused on strengthening its American and New Jersey modern and contemporary collections.

Each month, this page in HCCC Happenings provides updates on artists whose work is in the collection, and new additions to the collection.



Arie Galles (1944-) Heartland Study III, Oil Pastel on Paper- This artwork is dedicated in honor of Dr. Eric M. Friedman and his many contributions to Hudson County Community College. Dr. Friedman served as Executive Vice President and Provost and was a driving force at HCCC for more than 13 years.

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Steven Montgomery for donating the beautiful paintings by Mary Frances Judge. Thank you to the Estate of Mimi Poser for the generous donation of the art library. Thank you to the many donors who have reached out to us during this difficult time and donated beautiful things.

A special thanks to Dr. Eric M. Friedman who has been a great friend to the Foundation Art Collection. Not only has he donated and dedicated artwork in honor of loved ones, he has also been an intelligent and helpful friend to this project. From the start, he always "got" what we are doing and supported our efforts to bring beautiful art to our community. We appreciate his good work and his kind help. We wish Dr. Friedman well in his new position as President of Bergen Community College.

ARTIST NEWS

Artist **Jo Baer** says, "The nature of painting is such that it has no time. It has no tense. It's the

language of dreams." She calls her early 1960s abstract paintings "utopian" and talks about her process at that time. "I wanted to make ... things that I'd never seen before... I went to the big galleries and looked at things. It looked so different than what I was doing that I knew that no way that anybody would pick up the work. [The artist thought no gallery would show her paintings.] I was sort of stuck. They took up a lot of room, so I had to rent storage for them. I got sick of paying rent on them. I said, I think I'm going to destroy them. To h#\$% with it." Fortunately, she didn't destroy them.

Talking about the social justice movement, she said, "The world changed with the 1960s. You could feel that abstract and concept art wasn't saying what was necessary. It was speaking through wishful thinking."

Now in her nineties, the artist mentions her current works which look abstract from a great distance, but up close you see images of carefully drawn people and objects, "I'm doing the kind of

work that's sort of asks questions... I don't mean to baffle people. I really mean for them to sort of think about these things, because I am using images of real things... It seems to me that the history of painting has always been as a functional thing, a social thing, a way of speaking to the people, and that's all I really do."

Jo Baer's work is installed in the Gabert Library Makerspace and the reception area on the second floor of the Culinary Conference Center in Journal Square. She recently exhibited early and recent work at the Pace Gallery in New York City and was interviewed for that exhibition. You are welcome to see excerpts from the interview here: <https://www.pacegallery.com/exhibitions/jo-baer/>

Congratulations to **Craig McPherson**, whose work is installed on the lower level of the Gabert Library. He will be exhibiting in the Frick Art Museum's 50th anniversary show, in Pittsburgh, "The Frick Reflects: Looking Back, Moving Forward," through February 7, 2021.

The Collection's work by **Sarah Brayer** just returned from the framer, and we look forward to installing it next year. She generously made a pdf of her book, *The Complete Prints 1980-2016* so that you can see her artistry over time. The print depicted on the book cover is similar to the work in our collection. For more information, click on this link: https://sarahbrayer.com/documents/sarah-brayer_the-completeprints_1980-2018_download-20180626.pdf

We welcome anecdotes and information about how the art collection benefits our community. If you have enjoyed using the art collection in your teaching, your studies, or your everyday life, please let us know! Contact ASiegel@hccc.edu and tell us the story of how the art collection works for you.

To make a donation to the Foundation Art Collection, please contact Nicholas A. Chiaravalloti, J.D., Ed.D., Vice President for External Affairs and Senior Counsel to the President at nchiaravalloti@hccc.edu, or (201) 360-4009.

For detailed information regarding donating artwork, please visit <https://www.hccc.edu/foundationart/>

Would you like to explore the Foundation Art Collection using our new online searchable tools?

Go to www.hccc.edu/FoundationArt/Collections

Here is your opportunity to invest in the future of our community, one in which your generosity will be doubled and make a phenomenal, life-changing impact at an unprecedented time of challenge.



National Giving – Hudson County Community College (HCCC) will match your donation, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$100,000.

Your tax-exempt donation to the HCCC Foundation Giving Match Drive will help HCCC students complete their education and make transformational changes in their lives.

You may donate at www.hccc.edu/FoundationDonor

For more information, contact Nicholas A. Chiaravalloti, J.D., Ed.D., Vice President for External Affairs and Senior Counsel to the President at nchiaravalloti@hccc.edu

DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS
presents



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE INVITES EVERYONE TO HUNKER DOWN AND ENJOY ART, INSIGHTFUL DISCUSSIONS, PLUS YOGA AND ART CLASSES

The Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Department of Cultural Affairs (DOCA) hosted online events in December that highlighted the visual arts, influential community members, and more.

The month began with the HCCC Student Art Exhibit curated by Fine Arts Professor and Coordinator Laurie Riccadonna, and Computer Arts Coordinator and Professor Jeremiah Teipen. The event marked the end of the Fall semester and celebrated students' creativity in their classes. The exhibition was presented in the HCCC Benjamin J. Dineen III and Dennis C. Hull Gallery. The students' Portfolio Presentations were offered on Friday, Dec. 18 via Webex.

The HCCC Department of Cultural Affairs' monthly community interview series titled – "These are the People in Your Neighborhood..." – featured creative individuals from diverse industries sharing their personal stories of growth and success. DOCA Director Michelle Vitale interviewed Angus Vail, founder of Container Globe via Webex on Friday, Dec. 4. A New Zealand native who resides in Jersey City, Mr. Vail has been a business manager for internationally renowned rock bands, including INXS, 3 Doors Down, and KISS for more than 30 years. He combined his passion for rock n' roll with his love of Shakespeare to design a futuristic venue and constructed it from repurposed shipping containers and building materials as a pop-up setting for dance, theater, and music events. The "Container Globe" modular, mo-

bile theater is modeled after Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, which was built around 400 years ago.

The HCCC Department of Cultural Affairs, in coordination with community partners, offers monthly, virtual programs to promote wellness and inspire young artists. Jamie Wilson-Murray of Mindful Play Yoga led "Wellness Wednesday" on Dec. 9 utilizing the "I Am Amazing" theme at www.facebook.com/mindfulplayyoga. Kristin DeAngelis taught the Young Masters Art Class for children and families on Friday, Dec. 11 at www.facebook.com/youngmastersartclass. Participants created a dinner party place setting using watercolors, colored pencils, and crayons.

For more information, email: gallery@hccc.edu

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PRESENTS

2020 Fall
THEATRE FESTIVAL
UNMASKED!
Podcast Plays from Quarantine



**WARNING:
ADULT LANGUAGE**

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdvkVDao3gqwNSVN65SZmxGTLgembjQJ4>

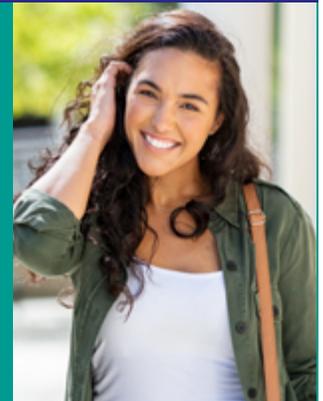
ATTENTION

Juniors and Seniors in Hudson County!
(Future 2021 and 2022 Graduates)

SAVE MONEY: Pay half the cost of in-county tuition at HCCC, significantly lower than tuition at four-year institutions.

Credits transfer to four-year institutions

Earn up to 36 credits toward an Associate Degree through the Early College Program



Contact EarlyCollege@hccc.edu to get started.

Get an early start on your college degree with Hudson County Community College!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES VICE CHAIR BAKARI G. LEE, ESQ., DELIVERS THE 2020 VIRTUAL KENTE CLOTH KEYNOTE SPEECH

Good evening, graduates! I am so very honored to serve as your Keynote speaker at this inaugural

Virtual Kente Graduation recognizing students of Black or African descent. As the graduate of an HBCU –Florida A&M University – I am so glad to see you all here today being honored and celebrated for your achievement. In talking with Dr. Jones and Ja'Via Hall, I was told of Anari Ramsey, an Early College student majoring in Human Services who was inducted into the National Honor Society of Leadership and Success during early college. Amazing work, Anari. And then there is Adoum Allamine an international student who is very involved as he serves as vice president for the Criminal Justice Club and secretary for the Honors Student Council. Adoum was an ESL student here at HCCC and upon exiting the program he has achieved no less than straight A's in ALL of his college-level courses, including three Honors courses with an elevated academic rigor, one of which happened to be ENG 102. Adoum is inspiring and a motivation for all who dare to dream bigger dreams, and I know that he will achieve his goals of going beyond his associate degree all the way through law school and beyond. So I am really very proud of you all, so elated about your accomplishment and so, so pleased to have the opportunity to provide capstone words to your wonderful achievement.

And particularly during this trying time in this nation's history. This is a unique moment in American history. The pressures, stresses and threat of COVID-19 has left us all in an uncertain world, unsure of where our careers will be, the safety and security of our homes, and in fact the welfare of our very lives. What is less unique, however, albeit so very unjust, is that this experience is not unfamiliar for those of us of African descent. Let us be frank, African slavery, the Middle Passage and European colonialism dispossessed millions of Africans from their ancestral homelands, from their family, language, culture, and religion. The masses of people of African descent in the States, South America, the Caribbean and Europe are the resultant evidence of this history. And we, the descendants of those enslaved Africans, have continued to bear the burden of this disruption to our lineage. This moment in time however has offered those around us with whom we live and interact on a daily basis a glimpse into our ongoing experience.

During this year, against the backdrop of COVID-19, we have borne witness to, among many, many others, the brutal murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and the horrific video footage of the murder of George Floyd. Similarly, we have witnessed unjustified calls to police clearly intended to threaten African-Americans enjoying life's basic pleasures: children selling lemonade, dog walking, jogging, swimming, cookouts in public parks...bird watching. The killings of, and intentional threats against, Black men, women and children participating in the simple

joys of everyday life are only the most recent in a long legacy of discrimination that has been a central and ever-present theme of the Black Experience. Things must change. As a chain is only as strong as its weakest link, a social order can only be maintained and thrive if there is the promise and hope of equality and equity in treatment and opportunity. If we cannot understand that we are all interconnected in every aspect of our lives and our spirit, we are doomed to fail. We all have to be an active participant in this effort.

We must all take a more active role in promoting dialogue, truth and transparency as this country considers systemic reforms against institutional racism and discrimination. At Hudson, we have begun, through Dr. Reber's work, with the establishment of the President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI), an initiative that supports the Presidential goals he has adopted based upon guidance from those of us on the Board of Trustees. There will be other improvements to the college's governance structure that at present I am not at liberty to share, but please look forward to announcements in the near future. We will continue as we seek to better understand the causes and the cures for the silence and complacency of good men and women that are witnesses to horrific acts of racism and the grossly disproportionate adverse impacts on African Americans in the areas of health, environmental injustice, housing, law enforcement and economic opportunity.

Dovetailing from the state of the world around us, I want to leave you with a few words to hopefully help guide your steps as you chart your path going forward. I have come to believe the keys to our life experiences and lessons for our time here on this plane, can be distilled down to two things: decisions, and relationships.

Every waking moment is a fork in the road of our lives. A decision we have to make as to what we will do with our time here, who we will be. What will we make of ourselves? Will we wake up early, will we sleep late, will we play, will we work hard, will we be productive, will we be destructive, will we be caring or callous, disciplined and diligent, or cavalier and carefree. Every moment you have a decision to make as to who you will be and how you will interact with the world. Your years of decisions have earned you today's achievements. Use the skills you have garnered here at Hudson to continue to make good, wise decisions on a daily basis: every day. Learn lessons from them, continue to dare greatly, continue to be the success stories each of you are. And while doing so, understand that the manner through which we experience and interpret life is as against the sounding board of relationships with others. This day is greater still because it is a shared experience, with loved ones and friends. As sound echoes against objects to create sonar that propagates and defines dark spaces, so do our relationships in and with the world around

us define our lives. So embrace those around you, love them, uplift them, share yourself with them, build them up, because within their ascension lies your truest glory.

And remember, inasmuch as your achievement today is a fantastic accomplishment, always be reminded to reach back and help those who come behind you. Muhammad Ali once said, "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." Be service-oriented. Volunteer. Build and contribute to your community. So, in sum, I say be connected with and give back to others! Be purposeful in an effort to uplift the world around you. I'd like to leave you with a poem that's special to me, and admonish you to heed its words, as you move forward through your lives. It's called The Bridge Builder, by Will Allen Dromgoole:

"An old man, going a lone highway,
Came at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim-
That sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned, when he reached the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.
"An old man going a lone highway,
Came, at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.
Through which was flowing a sullen tide
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fear for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.
"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting your strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day,
You never again will pass this way;
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
Why build this bridge at evening tide?"
The builder lifted his old gray head;
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followed after me to-day
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been as naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him!"

Thank you, and congratulations on this auspicious occasion!!

- Bakari G. Lee, Esq., Hudson County Community College 2020 Virtual Kente Cloth Keynote Speech



ENROLLMENT NEWS

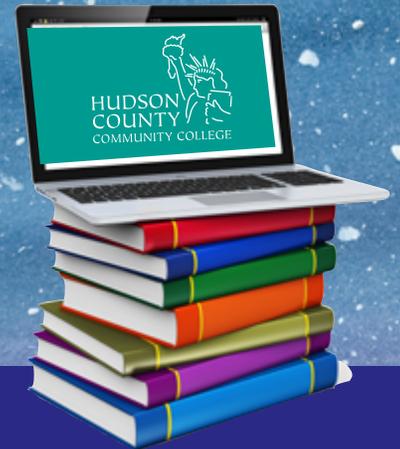
EOF SCHOLARS RECEIVE THEIR SCHOLAR KITS ON CAMPUS



The EOF Scholars received their Scholar Kit in December in appreciation of their hard work this past Fall 2020 semester. The Scholar Kit included a dictionary, thesaurus, an

EOF face mask, hand sanitizers, lanyards for their ID's, and copies of the books by *My Beloved World* by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and *Becoming* by Michelle Obama.

WINTER IS COMING



**WINTER CLASSES
RUN FROM
JANUARY 5, 2021 THROUGH
JANUARY 20, 2021**

- Earn credits in just two weeks!
- Financial Aid Available!

View course offerings at www.hccc.edu/schedule.

Online registration
libertylink.hccc.edu

Make a remote appointment at
www.calendly.com/hudsoncass

Make an in-person appointment at
www.calendly.com/hcccstudents

For more information on Winter session financial aid eligibility, please email financial_aid@hccc.edu.

Questions?

Email admissions@hccc.edu or call 201.714.7200.

Start the new year off at HCCC!

Online, On-Ground or Remote course options are available.

Apply now at www.hccc.edu/apply and use the promo code "HC3" to waive the \$25 application fee!

For in-person and remote registration appointments, and other online resources, visit www.hccc.edu/remoteservices

- **No increase in tuition** and fees for 2020-2021 year
- Eligible students can receive free tuition through the **Community College Opportunity Grant!**
- Courses available in more than **60 degree and certificate programs**
- **Credits transferable** to four-year institutions
- **Appeal for more Financial Aid!** Special considerations due to change in income

View course details at www.hccc.edu/schedule.

APPLY NOW for Spring classes!
www.hccc.edu/apply

For more information contact:
admissions@hccc.edu
text (732) 509-4222 or call (201) 714-7200



PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS

Goldwater Scholarship Program

The Goldwater Scholarship Program, one of the oldest and most prestigious national scholarships in the natural sciences, engineering, and mathematics in the United States, seeks to identify and support college sophomores and juniors who show exceptional promise of becoming this nation's next generation of research leaders in these fields.

The characteristics the Foundation seeks in a Goldwater Scholar include: strong commitment to a research career in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering, effective display of intellectual intensity in the sciences, mathematics and engineering, and potential for a significant future contribution to research in their chosen field. Deadline to apply is Jan. 22; visit <https://goldwater.scholarsapply.org/> for more information.

Hispanic Scholarship Fund

Founded in 1975, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to Latino students, as well as related support services. HSF seeks to give students all the tools they need to apply to college, do well in their course work, graduate, enter a profession, excel, help lead our nation going forward, and mentor the generations to come. As the nation's largest not-for-profit organization supporting Hispanic American higher education, HSF has awarded over \$470 million in scholarships and provides a range of ancillary programs for candidates, scholars, and their families. HSF further strives to make college education a top priority for every Latino family across the nation and to mobilize our community to proactively advance that goal – each individual, over a lifetime, in every way he/she can. For more information, please visit <https://apply.hsf.net/> or https://www.hsf.net/en_US/scholarship

HCCC Remote College Placement: You Have Options!

When enrolling at HCCC, students can choose from three options to determine their college placement:

- 1. College Placement Exemptions**
You may be eligible for college-level course work by submitting qualifying High School transcripts, SAT, ACT, TOEFL, and AP scores.
- 2. Online College Placement Test**
You can take the College Placement Test through Examity's online proctoring services.
- 3. Directed Self-Placement**
You will review course descriptions/expectations followed by a brief questionnaire. At the end of questionnaire, you will select preferred course placement.

For more details and instructions go to www.hccc.edu/remoteplacement






OWN YOUR *future*

Are you between
the ages of 18-26?
Year up can get you on a path
towards a rewarding professional
career in just one year.

EARN AN
AVERAGE OF

\$42,000

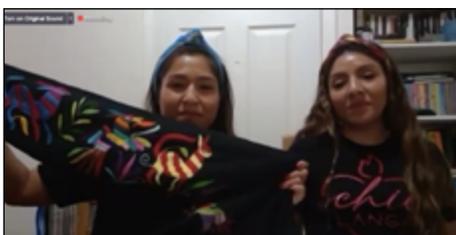
A YEAR



Year Up is a one-year career development training and paid internship program for motivated young adults, ages 18 to 26, seeking to launch a career in Business or Tech. To speak to a Year Up recruiter, visit <https://bit.ly/YUNYNJ1to1>.

The Office of Admissions & College Enrollment
Hudson County Community College
admissionsnyj@yearup.org | (646) 341-6800

CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS



On December 5, Continuing Education launched the Online Holiday Pop-up Shop for local small businesses. The shop features profile pages for 30 business, fun family activities and crafts, holiday recipes, live events, and virtual classes. A Small Business Holiday Gift Showcase aired live on Zoom on December 12, where 14 local businesses told their stories, presented their offerings and answered questions about their products or services. Paula Mahayosnand of Jersey City Parks Coalition moderated the festive event. On December 19, HCCC alum, Chef Rene Hewitt joined CE to host a Facebook Live Holiday Cooking Tips event, where he revealed his favorite culinary hacks and engaged in a lively discussion with all who attended.

The Holiday Pop-up Shop will stay open until January 31, 2021. Please visit, shop local, and support small business at: www.tinyurl.com/HCCCHoliday20

PROFESSIONAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT CLASSES



Now is the time to explore all services available to your business. Classes are affordable and can be covered through New Jersey Business and Industry Association grant funds, pending eligibility and availability. All classes can be offered online or at your location.

Call Maritza Reyes at 201-360-5383 or email at mreyes@hccc.edu
www.hccc.edu/BusinessIndustry

- BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS-REMOTE WORK/DIGITAL LITERACY
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS (WRITTEN AND VERBAL)
- CUSTOMER SERVICE SKILLS
- DEVELOPING GOOD MANAGEMENT SKILLS
- ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE
- MICROSOFT OFFICE SKILLS (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Outlook)
- PROBLEM SOLVING
- SPANISH FOR THE WORKPLACE

**additional classes available*



NO-COST ONLINE TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, NON-PROFITS, AND CORPORATIONS!

WHO WE ARE

The HCCC Center for Business & Industry was established in 2000 to provide our community with the skilled and educated workforce that will allow our area to prosper in today's global economy.

WHAT WE DO

HCCC CBI provides affordable, customizable, and flexible professional development training to businesses, non-profits, and government organizations, to employers and their employees.

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY; CLASSES FILL UP FAST!

The first step to registering your employees is to verify business eligibility by clicking here:

<https://tinyurl.com/cbinjbia>

MS EXCEL Level 1

January 19, 2021
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

MS EXCEL Level 2

January 21, 2021
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Customer Service in Spanish

February 2, 2021
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Spanish for the Workplace

January 12, 2021 to March 18, 2021
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Tues. and Thurs.
(40 hours)

For more Information contact:
Maritza Reyes (201) 360-5383
or mreyes@hccc.edu

HCCC STEM CLUB PRODUCES ANTIMICROBIAL HANDS-FREE GADGETS



Courage Lahban and Anass Ennasraouis demonstrating the use of the gadgets

Through support from the College Library personnel and advisor Dr. Clive Li, the STEM Club has produced a reasonable quantity of 3D printed antimicrobial gadgets. This was made possible through the club's prototype, developed during the summer of 2020 with contributions from Anass Ennasraouis.

The club hopes to distribute some of these gadgets most importantly to those who are actively serving around the College more frequently. The gadgets were distributed on Wednesday, Dec. 16 (prior to the College's closing for inclement weather). Additional quantities are available at the Gabert Library and STEM Building.

As the STEM Club continues to acquire the needed tools and resources to support the STEM initiative, the club will produce more of these gadgets to continue distribution within the College.

CALENDAR

Friday, January 1

New Year's Day – College closed

Monday, January 4

Day after New Year's Day – College Open

Late registration for Winter Term only

Tuesday, January 5

Winter Intersession begins/Last day to add

Wanna Talk about It?, 1 p.m. Log in at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/webappng/sites/hudsonccc/meeting/info/dc716f80bdcd43cab6e453281b41ac8d?siteurl=hudsonccc&MTID=m2716f851da3334173b5bfe57e33d4f73>

Tuesday, January 12

Wanna Talk about It?, 1 p.m. Log in at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/webappng/sites/hudsonccc/meeting/info/dc716f80bdcd43cab6e453281b41ac8d?siteurl=hudsonccc&MTID=m2716f851da3334173b5bfe57e33d4f73>

Tuesday, January 12

Wanna Talk about It?, 1 p.m. Log in at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/webappng/sites/hudsonccc/meeting/info/dc716f80bdcd43cab6e453281b41ac8d?siteurl=hudsonccc&MTID=m2716f851da3334173b5bfe57e33d4f73>

Monday, January 18

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – College closed

Tuesday, January 19

Wanna Talk about It?, 1 p.m. Log in at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/webappng/sites/hudsonccc/meeting/info/dc716f80bdcd43cab6e453281b41ac8d?siteurl=hudsonccc&MTID=m2716f851da3334173b5bfe57e33d4f73>

Meeting of the Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees, 5 p.m.

Thursday, January 21

College Service Day

All College Faculty Orientation, 6 p.m.

Monday, January 25

Classes begin for On-Ground, Online 15-Week and Online Session A/Hybrid, Early College & Culinary Evening Sessions

The Barber Shop, 10 a.m. Please email aogburn@hccc.edu to participate.

Monday, January 25 to Sunday, February 7

Add/Drop Period for 15-Week On-Ground, Early College & Culinary Evening Terms

Tuesday, January 26

Wanna Talk about It?, 1 p.m. Log in at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/webappng/sites/hudsonccc/meeting/info/dc716f80bdcd43cab6e453281b41ac8d?siteurl=hudsonccc&MTID=m2716f851da3334173b5bfe57e33d4f73>

Wednesday, January 27

All College Council General Meeting, 3:30 p.m. <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?MTID=m298561f3f2771e5c2fc69a45f40570eb>

Virtual Town Hall Meeting, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Join at 1-888-363-4734, Access Code: 9751220#

Feeling the Winter Blues?

- Difficulty concentrating
- Feeling irritable or angry
- Feelings of exhaustion and fatigue
- Feelings of loneliness
- Lack of pleasure in normal activities
- Losing interest in activities that you normally enjoy
- Sleeping much more or much less than normal
- Trouble making decisions
- Withdrawing from friends and family



You are not alone.
Talk with people who get you.

TalkCampus

24/7 Support

<https://www.talklife.co/hudson-county-community-college>

New Jersey Suicide Prevention HOPELINE

24/7 Peer Support & Suicide Prevention

1.855.654.6735

<http://www.njhopeline.com>

Crisis Text Line

Text HELLO to 741741

Free, 24/7, Confidential

Mental Health Counseling & Wellness

(201) 360-4229

mentalhealthcounseling@hccc.edu

To seek services please visit –

<https://myhudson.hccc.edu/mental-health-counseling-wellness-center>

We are still here for you!

Click here to complete a Care Form

<http://www.hccc.edu/wecare/>

Staff and Faculty Resources:

Employee Assistance Program

Emotional support line at 833-848-1764

Visit <https://eap.ndbh.com>

(Username: hccc Password: guest)

ALUMNI CORNER

Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees

William J. Netchert, Esq., *Chair*
 Bakari Gerard Lee, Esq., *Vice Chair*
 Karen A. Fahrenholz, *Secretary/Treasurer*
 Joseph V. Doria, Jr., Ed.D.
 Adamarys Galvin
 Pamela E. Gardner
 Roberta Kenny
 Jeanette Peña
 Silvia Rodriguez
 Harold G. Stahl, Jr.
 James A. Fife, *Trustee Emeritus*
 Joanne Kosakowski, *Trustee Emerita*
 Christopher M. Reber, Ph.D., *College President*
 Koral Booth, *Alumni Representative*

County Executive and Board of Chosen Freeholders

Thomas A. DeGise, *County Executive*
 Anthony P. Vainieri, Jr., *Chairperson*
 William O'Dea, *Vice Chairperson*
 Anthony L. Romano, *Chair Pro Temp*
 Albert J. Cifelli, Esq.
 Fanny E. Cedeño
 Kenneth Kopacz
 Caridad Rodriguez
 Joel Torres
 Jerry Walker

JOURNAL SQUARE CAMPUS

70 Sip Avenue
 Jersey City, NJ 07306
 Phone (201) 714-7100

NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS

4800 Kennedy Boulevard
 Union City, NJ 07087
 Phone (201) 360-4600

SECAUCUS CENTER

Located at the Frank J. Gargiulo Campus of
 the Hudson County Schools of Technology
 One High Tech Way
 Secaucus, NJ 07094

FOLLOW US ON:

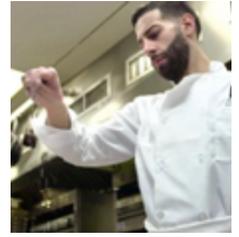


www.hccc.edu
myhudson.hccc.edu

Gustavo Gutierrez

Class of 2011

Associate in Applied Science – Culinary Arts



What factors led you to decide to attend Hudson Community College?

I really wanted to attend The Culinary Institute of America; however, the tuition was astronomical. When I did research, I learned that most of the professors from HCCC were all graduates from either CIA or Johnson and Wales. I knew I could get the same education for a fraction of the cost.

What is your favorite memory of the College, in or out of the classroom?

Ms. M's favorite catch phrase: "Etiquette Says" still haunts me in my dreams. (I love you, Ms. M!)

How did you become interested in culinary arts?

I always had a passion for food, but when I was younger, I pursued that passion by eating, rather than creating food. I would have never thought twice about becoming a chef, I kind of just fell into it when I saw how much schooling it took to be a pilot.

How did your time at HCCC prepare for your career/life now?

HCCC didn't just teach me how to cook, they taught me how to look at any food business as a whole, from costing and statistical guidelines in Dr. K's class to managing front of house in Mr. Moruzzi's class, the program really gave me an understanding for the importance of the flow of the entire restaurant not just the quality and production of the food.

What is a typical work day for you?

A typical work day would usually be in a restaurant; however, due to COVID, my work day begins and ends in my garage for the time being as I am building a company from the ground up and hopefully soon moving into a storefront.

What has been the most memorable project/case you have worked on?

I always thought working at Le Cirque would be the highlight of my career. One day this Cuban boy with a pig tattoo on his arm, walked into a kosher restaurant and little did he know his life would change. At The Ridge, I not only found my identity as a chef, but I broke boundaries in the kosher world. I did not make any traditional Jewish foods and pushed the bar as far as I could. I established and operated the longest dry age program in any kosher restaurant in the country.

Who are your biggest inspirations that have impacted your work in some way?

I can't name one person. There have been so many people that have contributed to my success. From all the professors at HCCC to my mentor at Le Cirque to working for Danny Meyers and even Hell's Kitchen winner, Ariel Fox.

What advice would you give to recent HCCC graduates?

Find your passion; don't let anyone tell you that if you don't work fine dining that you aren't a real chef. There are different niches in this field. Find your niche and make it all your own.

What advice do you have for those students who are just starting their college careers?

Dive in. Go get a job in a restaurant, even if it is as a dishwasher. The last thing you want to do is finish school and realize you don't want to do this for the rest of your life. It's hard, it's stressful, and it's not always rewarding. If you like this field, you might not make it. Make sure you love it.

HCCC Alumni: Get Involved!



Did you enjoy your experience at HCCC?
 Are you willing to contribute time?
 Do you want to inspire others with your success stories?
 Are you looking for career support?

If so join, socialize and network!

For information about the College's Alumni Association or membership benefits, please email alumni@hccc.edu.